



# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

SIXTH FLOOR,  
PRUDENTIAL BUILDING,  
195 NORTH TERRACE,  
ADELAIDE

In reply quote No.

## CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEASON 1965-66

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from more than 5,000 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

### AREAS AND YIELDS (SUMMARY)

Reports in March 1965 indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 2,872,000 acres of wheat, 1,231,000 acres of barley, and 1,220,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 2,786,000 acres to wheat - a small decrease from the intended area, 1,138,000 acres to barley - approximately 92 per cent of that intended, and 942,000 acres to oats - approximately 77 per cent of that intended.

The estimated yields of wheat, barley, and oats in the 1965-66 harvest are 39,912,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 14.60 bushels per acre, 19,127,000 bushels of barley at an average of 17.66 bushels per acre, and 5,487,000 bushels of oats at an average of 12.67 bushels per acre.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley and oats in 1965-66 is 64,526,000 bushels, 24,200,000 bushels less than the yield of 88,726,000 bushels in 1964-65 and 35,581,000 bushels less than the record yield of 100,107,000 bushels in 1960-61.

Estimates indicate that in 1965-66 the yield per acre of wheat is approximately three bushels per acre lower than the average of 17.53 bushels obtained during the ten seasons 1955-56 to 1964-65 inclusive. The yield per acre of barley is more than three bushels lower than the ten year average of 21.19 and that for oats approximately four bushels lower than the average for the same period of 16.42.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1965-66

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	2,786	2,733	39,912	14.60
Barley	1,138	1,083	19,127	17.66
Oats	942	433	5,487	12.67
Field peas	32	30	258	8.60
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal hay	148	-	157	1.06

### SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Insufficient rain was received in April to enable farmers to complete seed-bed preparations or to commence general seeding. Good general rain in May allowed seeding to proceed and with further rain early in June crops were sown in all main cereal districts although seeding was not completed until July. Average or above average rainfall in most districts in July and August, with calm weather and fewer frosts than usual, provided good conditions for germination and winter growth. These favourable conditions consolidated harvest prospects and a harvest at least up to average seemed assured.

Following useful rains in early September, the weather through the remainder of the month and through October was dry and warm. These conditions and the lack of adequate sub-soil moisture allowed crops to ripen early and a few days of withering hot northerly winds towards the end of October were severe on all crops, causing them to finish too quickly. The very heavy winds caused some loss of grain.

1000

1000

1000

1000

1000

Substantial falls of rain over most of the agricultural areas during November were too late to be of great benefit but were valuable in some later Central and South Eastern districts. Generally crops were harvested some weeks earlier than usual.

The preliminary estimate for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April-November 1965 is 10.53 inches. For the same period, the mean for 60 years ended 1964 is 12.81 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1961-62 to 1965-66

Tables 2 and 3 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay for 1965-66 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

TABLE 2 - CEREAL GRAIN : AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	Estimate 1965-66
WHEAT						
Total area sown	'000 acres	2,270	2,645	2,849	2,772	2,786
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	2,229	2,595	2,802	2,727	2,733
Yield	'000 bushels	33,854	38,339	53,971	52,817	39,912
Yield per acre	bushel	15.19	14.77	19.26	19.37	14.60
BARLEY						
Total area sown	'000 acres	1,294	1,088	1,165	1,135	1,138
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	1,271	1,053	1,123	1,095	1,083
Yield	'000 bushels	21,292	18,005	24,337	26,932	19,127
Yield per acre	bushel	16.75	17.10	21.67	24.60	17.66
OATS						
Total area sown	'000 acres	630	839	956	951	942
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	324	416	501	444	433
Yield	'000 bushels	4,391	5,770	9,149	8,977	5,487
Yield per acre	bushel	13.57	13.88	18.27	20.23	12.67

CEREAL HAY

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in most years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the estimated quantity shown in these bulletins.

TABLE 3 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	Estimate 1965-66
Area sown	'000 acres	125	174	196	160	148
Yield	'000 tons	156	216	259	229	157
Yield per acre	ton	1.26	1.24	1.32	1.43	1.06

FIELD PEAS

It is estimated that the area of field peas planted for grain during the 1965-66 season was 30,000 acres. The estimated yield is 258,000 bushels representing an average of 8.60 bushels per acre. In the 1964-65 season 496,000 bushels were obtained from 34,000 acres. Record production of 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) was achieved in 1956-57.

D.L.J. AITCHISON

Commonwealth Bureau of Census & Statistics  
ADELAIDE S.A.  
19th January 1966

DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

